gave speeches before the Maoists activists and the situation worsened. Has this matter come up before the Ministry? This is my simple and pinpointed question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, these are perceptions and I can't really deal with perceptions. When a group of people in West Midnapore formed an organization purportedly to protest against Police atrocities, it is true that one or two of my colleagues visited the area. They wanted to visit the area – and I spoke to the West Bengal Government – in order to talk to that group to find out what their complaint against the Police was. That has nothing to do with the CPI (Maoists). Once they found that that organisation formed by the person concerned is only a front organization of the CPI (Maoists), I think, my colleagues who visited that area made it abundantly clear that they have never supported the CPI (Maoists), they will never support the CPI (Maoists) and they are totally opposed to violence. But despite that statement, there are perceptions among other political parties about that political party. I can't obviously deal with perceptions. These perceptions have to be debated on the political platform and the people have to judge, as I believe they are judging.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 184. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: We are speaking about West Bengal ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SWAPAN SADHAN BOSE: ... and I am representing West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may be; there are others also who are representing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. Please, resume your place. Yes, Question No. 184, please.

Talks on Kashmir issue

*184. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: ††

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister recently offered to talk on the Kashmir issue, to address both its external and internal dimensions, with all sections including the separatists; and

(b) if so, the response of the separatist groups thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In a speech on October 28, 2009, Prime Minister stated that talks could be held with anyone who has any meaningful ideas for promoting peace and development in Kashmir. He was also willing to carry all sections of the people in resolving the political and economic problems of Jammu and Kashmir. Some groups have indicated an interest in holding talks.

---

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Govindrao Wamanrao Adik.

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate and thank the Government of India, particularly, the hon. Prime Minister for trying to hold talks with Pakistan as well with separate separatist groups to bring about peace in Kashmir area. As a part of it, he has just recently given an offer to all these concerned ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Yes; Sir. He has given an offer of having talks with these people. In reply to my question, the hon. Minister has said that some groups have indicated an interest in holding talks. I would like to know from the Minister as to who are these groups; what is their background; and what type of interests they have shown in holding talks with the Government of India.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, both, the Prime Minister and I, on behalf of the Government, have offered to talk to every shade of political opinion in Jammu & Kashmir. That includes the registered political parties; that includes other groups; and that also includes groups which fall under the umbrella of the Hurriyat. When I had an opportunity to explain the scope of the talks, I said that these will be quiet talks, quiet diplomacy, far away from the glare of the media. We stand by that statement and I can only tell this House that there are encouraging responses to that statement. Beyond that, Sir, if at this stage, I am asked to disclose details, then it defeats the very purpose of holding quiet talks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Adik, do you have a second supplementary?

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Yes; Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Go ahead.

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Sir, my second supplementary is this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the progress of these offers. It is because we have been giving these offers not only to separatist groups but to Government of Pakistan also from time to time. So, what is the present status today and what is the effect of these offers on these concerned people?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there are no talks with Pakistan. The hon. Prime Minister has made it very clear that unless Pakistan brings to book the perpetrators of the 26.11.2008 attack and dismantles the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, there is no scope for talks with Pakistan.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Sir, our Prime Minister had said that the borders of our country and its geography cannot be changed. But the separatists have not given up their old demands, which they call self-determination and hence, if we invite them without any condition, we are indirectly lending strength to their demands and this factor complicates the issue further. In this situation, where the separatists have not given up their old demands of self-determination, what is the status of dialogue?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, a number of groups in Jammu & Kashmir have a number of demands. And I am not denying that some groups have put forward the demand that they must have the right of self- determination. Some others have used the phrase, 'self-rule'. These are citizens of Jammu & Kashmir. There are many shades of political opinion. A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since 1947. Leaders have come, leaders have gone; a new generation of leaders has taken over many of these groups. I do not think we should shy away from talking to these groups just because they have put forward a particular demand or phrased a demand in a particular manner. We are willing to talk to every shade of political opinion and that is precisely the statement that the Prime Minister made. We stand by that statement and we will talk to every shade of political opinion in Jammu & Kashmir.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, the Home Minister has said publicly and in the House just now that for the present he is going ahead with what he refers to as quiet diplomacy. Obviously, he says that he is not in a position to disclose the details of what is happening at this sensitive stage. We appreciate the sensitivity. What is his reaction to the recent statement of the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir making a public disclosure that the Home Minister has already had two rounds of talks with the Hurriyat and that he now regards the Kashmir issue to be an international issue?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not think we should take one sentence of a speech or one statement made here and there and say that is a policy declaration. I do not know the context in which that question was asked and answer was given, but I have met with Shri Omar Abdullah several times. I can assure the House and the Leader of the Opposition that we are on the same page. Quiet talks is the present policy of the Government, and I said that at an appropriate stage we would certainly share with this House and with the people the contours of a solution that may emerge from the quiet talks. At the moment, we are pursuing the policy of quiet talks. A statement here or a statement there or an answer to a question does not, in any way, affect the position that we will try to find a solution to the issues of Kashmir. But let me assure everyone, I think I know Shri Omar Abdullah's position, we are on the same page.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति महोदय, यह मामला बहुत संवेदनशील है और मैं समझता हूं कि इसके ऊपर कोई हलकी-फुलकी बात करने से बचने की जरूरत है। फिर भी शुरूआत में जब सरकार ने यह प्रस्ताव रखा, तो जम्मू-कश्मीर के अलगाववादी तबकों में से एक moderate तबका जो था, उसने सकारात्मक जवाब दिया और ऐसा लगा कि इस दिशा में सरकार जो प्रयास कर रही है, उसके कुछ अच्छे परिणाम निकल सकते हैं। लेकिन इसके बीच यह देखने को मिला कि वहां जो एक दूसरा तबका है, जो moderate नहीं है, hardliner है, उस तबके ने यह दबाव डालना शुरू किया कि ऐसी कोई diplomacy आगे न चलाई जाए। उसको तो सरकार हैंडल कर रही होगी। जो तीसरा पक्ष इससे निकलकर आया, उसमें पिछले दिनों यह देखने को मिला कि separatist leaders सरकार से बात करने से तो बच रहे हैं, लेकिन पाकिस्तान से बात करना चाहते हैं, पाकिस्तान में बैठे separatist लोगों से बात करना चाहते हैं और चीन के लोगों से भी बात करना चाहते हैं। जो ज्यादा चिंता का विषय था। उन्हीं नेताओं में से एक का अभी बयान आया कि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति : प्लीज़ प्रश्न करिए।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : मैं उसी पर आ रहा हूं। चीन चूंकि कश्मीर के एक बड़े हिस्से पर काबिज़ है, इसलिए चीन भी एक थर्ड पार्टी बने। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि ये जो नए angles और नए complications इस पूरे issue से जुड़ने लगे हैं, इन complications के ऊपर सरकार की अपनी क्या नीति है और इन complications की दृष्टि से इस समूची प्रक्रिया में किस-किसको वे शामिल करना उचित समझते हैं, किसको नहीं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I think the spokesman for the Chinese Government made it very clear that China has no interest in the matter and this is a matter that should be resolved by the Indian Government. So, I don't think that we need to make much of a Reference to China in a statement made by one of the leaders or one of the groups. The point is, there has been a tremendous improvement in the security situation in Jammu & Kashmir in the last few months. There is also, according to my reports and my assessment, a very positive response to the Government of India's offer to hold talks with every shade of political opinion. We must recognise that Kashmir has a unique history and a unique geography. Therefore, we must make every effort to find a solution. I believe that a solution will emerge through the process of quiet talks. But I would respectfully urge all my colleagues not to be swayed or disturbed by a statement here or a statement there. What is important is: Do I find an encouraging response to the offer of quiet talks? As I said a little while earlier, the response is very encouraging. Let me pursue the quiet talks and I will report to this House at an appropriate time.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister. I think he has been handling this problem very well and the message that is going to the nation is filled with a lot of confidence which deserves a wonderful congratulation. Sir, there are a lot of security problems, internal and external, today, that the country is facing. I would like to ask the Minister how are you going to prioritise them?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we have a debate beginning at 12 o'clock on the internal security situation. I request the hon. Member to participate in the debate.

Non-fixation of pay by Navyug schools

*185. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pay of the teachers and staff of NDMC Navyug Schools has not been fixed following the implementation of the recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission in 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that PGTs and TGTs of these schools are getting grade pay of Rs. 6600/- and 4800/- respectively with a huge gap between two posts; and